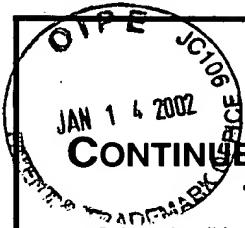


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RCE/2163
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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Express Mail No.	EL 452 482 220 US
Application Number	09/292,552
Filing Date	April 15, 1999
First Named Inventor	MAURO et al.
Group Art Unit	2163
Examiner Name	Romain Jeanty
Attorney Docket Number	9628-006-999

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Technology Center 2100

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
 - i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Enclosed
 - i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
 - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☒ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of 3 months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150:
 - i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e), estimated to be \$ 370.00
 - ii. ☒ Extension of time fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17, estimated to be \$ 405.00 for a 3 month extension, the request for which is being made herewith. (First month extension was paid in a Response filed November 13, 2001.)
 - iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type) Francis E. Morris	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 24,615
Signature <i>Francis E. Morris</i>	Date January 14, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or by facsimile transmitted to fax no. 1-703- to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.

Name (Print/Type)	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)
Signature	Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

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02 FC:217 405.00 CH